

Panorama Estates Neighborhood Newsletter

A Publication of the Panorama Estates Association

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE FOR APRIL

by Ellen Paige

This winter and spring brought luxurious rains and cool nights, just right for warm quilts and hot tea. Tax time is coming, and after that hurdle we face the long months of summer heat. This is a good time of year to look back, and to look forward.

We have accomplished much in the past 5 months—medians have been restored and replanted with native plants, and we will soon have our neighborhood sign installed...we had our first ever home tour (lots of fun!)...and thanks to the hard work of many people in our neighborhood, serious efforts are underway to preserve the open spaces of A-mountain. But 2005 is still young, and we must look forward from here.

Our spring clean-up is set for April 16th—come work together to clean up Sentinel Peak Road—the pride we get from maintaining our neighborhood outweighs the drudgery of that task.... Consider volunteering to water some of our thirsty new median plants to get them through the summer—your efforts will really pay off in the improved appearance of our neighborhood. Or think about writing a grant proposal to accomplish a neighborhood project.... But most important, simply give thought to what improvements you would like to see in our neighborhood. Convey your ideas to any Board member, and let's see what we can do together—so much can be accomplished in even one year!

NEIGHBORS EXPRESS VIEWS ON A-MOUNTAIN OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION

On February 2, 2005 more than 25 concerned residents of Panorama Estates as well as Menlo Park and other neighborhoods met in the Ward I office of Councilman Jose Ibarra to discuss preservation of open space on A-mountain. Panorama Estates president Ellen Paige officially presented the Panorama Estates position paper on A-mountain and the Quarry to Councilman Ibarra (see Jan. PEA newsletter). Both Councilman Ibarra and Andrew Greenhill, aide to Mayor Walkup, encouraged Panorama Estates to hold a special meeting and membership vote to clarify neighborhood opinion on open space preservation. Subsequently, on March 8, 2005 a special meeting was held at the home of Ellen Paige, with 30 Panorama Estates neighborhood residents attending, and 100% casting ballots in favor of preservation of open space on A-mountain. Specifically the vote asked that the City of Tucson acquire, by purchase or trade, privately owned property on the slopes of A-mountain, for the purpose of preserving it as open space. The results of this vote were conveyed to Councilman Ibarra, and Mayor and Council. Additionally, the issue of open space preservation was raised in the Mayor and Council session held March 1, 2005. Councilman Ibarra introduced a motion that the Council staff study the feasibility of City acquisition of A-mountain land for preservation; the motion passed with the unanimous support of all Council members. A follow-up meeting in Mayor and Council chambers should be held in early April; a good neighborhood turn-out there would be helpful in furthering open space preservation. Ellen Paige will try to alert neighborhood re date and time of that meeting, or you can get on an e mailing list by contacting Jill Hofer at Jill@nicegift.org.

BUFFLEGRASS INVASION ALERT

Bufflegrass has been in the news lately. This rapidly-spreading, non-native grass is crowding out native vegetation and placing our homes in danger of wildfires. Bufflegrass is now considered to be the single greatest threat to the Sonoran desert, where the dried plants can carry fires, destroying native plants and animals. Just last week, Arizona declared bufflegrass a "noxious weed."

Once found mainly along road shoulders, bufflegrass can now be seen spreading out around "A" Mountain and Tumamoc Hill – and surrounding our houses and vacant lots. It is time to find out what we can do to eradicate this dangerous weed from our neighborhood.

Travis Bean, Coordinator of the Buffelgrass Eradication and Outreach Effort for the University of Arizona's Desert Laboratory on Tumamoc Hill, has agreed to meet with our neighborhood. We will view slides, learn how to identify bufflegrass, and find out how we can remove it from our property. We will look at an area of buffelgrass and see a demonstration of removal techniques.

SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 10:00 AM
The Bright Yellow House -- 52 Lazy Place

Please join us for this important meeting. For questions or additional information, call Judy Muller at 623-0096.

PIMA COUNTY ADULT PROBATION ADOPTS SENTINEL PEAK PARK

Andy Sanchez from Pima County Parks and Recreation has been working with our neighborhood to facilitate adoption of Sentinel Peak Park for monthly trash clean-ups by Pima County Adult Probation. The first clean up is scheduled for Friday, March 18. Please watch for a crew of hard workers on that day and be sure to thank the men and their supervisors. We are very grateful to have this help. Maybe, with the work crews giving us a start, we neighbors who walk the mountain can pick up in between.

WEED WHACKERS UNITE!

A big **THANK YOU** to all our neighbors who have been out pulling and digging and whacking the tall weeds that have leaped up after our wonderful rains. Our neighborhood is looking so much better. You are an inspiration!

PEA Board of Directors~2005

Ellen Paige, President/Treasurer	623-6689
Doug Horner, Vice President	617-0696
Vera Pfeuffer, Secretary	444-9148
Barbara Anderson, Member-at-Large	624-4264
Larry Chavez, (new!)Member-at-Large	791-0780

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION DUES

If you'd like to pay your 2005 PEA dues, please send a check for \$15.00 to Ellen Paige, Treasurer. Her address is 52 Lazy Place (85745).

Please include your address and lot number to ensure the accuracy of our records.

THANK YOU!

The City of Tucson, its officers and employees, its Department of Neighborhood Resources and all other offices neither agree or disagree with the views expressed or implied in this communication and are not responsible therefor. The distribution requestor is solely responsible.

PANORAMA HOME TOUR: A GREAT SUCCESS!

Sunday, March 6th 2005 marked the first annual Panorama Estates Home Tour. Dark clouds and a spring shower cleared just as over 30 neighbors gathered at 1:30 at the mosaic gardens of Lynn Kerry. The beautiful afternoon was spent socializing and exploring some of our neighborhood's many unique homes and gardens. Included on the tour were Lynn Kerry's gorgeous and inspirational mosaic-filled garden and Dr. Mary Jo Ghory's beautifully decorated 1908 stone house, which is on the National Register of Historic Places for its unusual stone masonry. We also visited Larry and Julie Chavez's very exciting and modern streamlined multi-level rammed earth home, designed by Larry himself. Hal Bardach is also credited with the design of his lovely art-filled chateau, featuring a loft, studio and beautiful patio. Our final destination was Lee and Jeanne Paige's dramatic house on the hill, where at 4:00 p.m. neighbors enjoyed the breathtaking city views from the Paige's ramada, while sampling Jeanne's punch and cookies. The rains returned that evening, but could not dampen the enjoyment of an afternoon spent getting to know our wonderful neighbors and their homes. Many thanks are due to Jill Hofer, Judy Muller, Vera Pfeuffer and Ellen Paige for organizing this fun social event! And rumor has it the 2006 Tour is already on the drawing board....

NEIGHBORHOOD SPRING CLEANUP

Gather together with other neighbors to do a spring clean up of Sentinel Peak Road, on Saturday April 16th from 9—12 am. As you know, this area is highly used and littered, and as a neighborhood we can ease this eyesore somewhat by picking up litter. Plastic bags for litter collection will be provided, and Mayor Walkup's office has arranged for pickup of bagged litter that afternoon. Pick up your trashbags at Panorama and Sentinel Peak Road at 9 am ---bring rakes, gloves, hats and water!

NEIGHBORS RESTORE MEDIANS; NEIGHBORHOOD SIGN TO BE INSTALLED EARLY APRIL

Using proceeds from a \$1000 ProNeighborhoods grant, Panorama Estates neighbors volunteered their time and muscle to restore eroded medians and sewer right-of-ways. Only native plants and seed species were used (all from Native Seed Search). Working over several weeks in January and February, neighbors restored the medians on Bella Vista and Panorama, as well as the triangle on Sentinel Peak road and Bella Vista. The neighborhood sign is nearly complete, and is scheduled to be installed in the triangle in early April. Native species revegetation seeds were also sown on all eroded/disturbed areas, in time to soak up some of the spring rain we enjoyed! A plant list is included below. Special thanks to Jim Johnson, Jeanne Paige Tom Vanata and Judy Muller for their work with pick-axe and shovel as well as committing to watering our fledgling plants through the summer; thanks also to the horticulturalists at Desert Survivors for their expert advice on plant selection and methods for water-harvesting and erosion control.

Arizona rosewood, condalia, courtesetia, artemisia, sacred datura, senna wislitzii, aloysia gratissima, turpentine bush, desert broom, fremont wolfberry, buckwheat, triangle bursage, bebbia juncea, 4-wing saltbush, catclaw acacia, ambrosia cordifolia, desert hackberry, graythorn, mirabilis, parthenium—in all 53 plants, 7 bags of compost and over an acre of revegetation seeds and wildflowers!